1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	Manipur	199	552	1538	2571	592
17	Meghalaya	356	4368	3953	3305	6465
18	Mizoram	1795	2290	1275	1305	2202
19	Nagaland	7706	4906	4473	6698	2945
20	Orissa	53328	139561	169488	444669	154205
21	Punjab	4154	6606	5317	5651	6050
22	Rajasthan	37440	41766	30471	37592	41888
23	Sikkim	752	1539	1754	1149	2041
24	Tamil Nadu	54935	49914	43540	62988	57069
25	Tripura	11229	11640	10382	10321	15003
26	Uttar Pradesh	155248	159680	171944	177190	190950
27	Uttaranchal	0	13775	11245	11799	21666
28	West Bengal	62653	90783	71553	86709	84726
29	A & N Islands	6	52	858	532	671
30	D & N Haveli	52	0	202	54	0
31	Daman & Diu	3	1	66	48	4
32	Lakhshadweep	34	22	15	5	14
33	Pondicherry	426	428	266	403	264
	TOTAL :	925679	1170926	1171081	1548641	1334245

Implementation of rural development programmes through people at district level

†875. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that to further accelerate the pace of rural development, Government propose to entrust the responsibility of implementation of rural development schemes to people at district level;

(b) if so, what are the outlines of the proposal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this proposal has been objected to in certain areas; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the nature of the objections and the steps taken by Government to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (d) There has been a paradigm shift in the strategy for rural development with focus on decentralization through speedy and effective devolution of financial and administrative powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to further accelerate the pace of rural development. As such the emphasis has shifted towards participation of people through Panchayati Raj Institutions and Self Help Groups in the Planning, formulation and execution of the programmes. Under most of the rural development programmes a crucial role to PRIs in the programme implementation has been assigned. At present, the funds for the major programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development, are released to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/ Zila Parishads (ZPs). This procedure has been evolved over a period of time, in consultation with the State Governments, based on the experience of the Ministry in programme implementation and in consonance with the principles of decentralization enshrined in the Constitution. In the recently concluded Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hon'ble Prime Minister has also suggested an alternative system of providing block grants to districts based on their incidence of poverty to plan and implement strategies that optimize their resource potential.

Open drains in villages

876. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the villages have open drains; and

(b) if so, the action taken to cover the drains to improve rural health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) and (b) Providing sanitation facilities in rural areas is the responsibility of the State Governments as it is a State subject. However, Government of India extends support to the States. Under the Centrally sponsored employment generation schemes *i.e.*, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are eligible to take up construction of drainage facility. Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), States are supported for